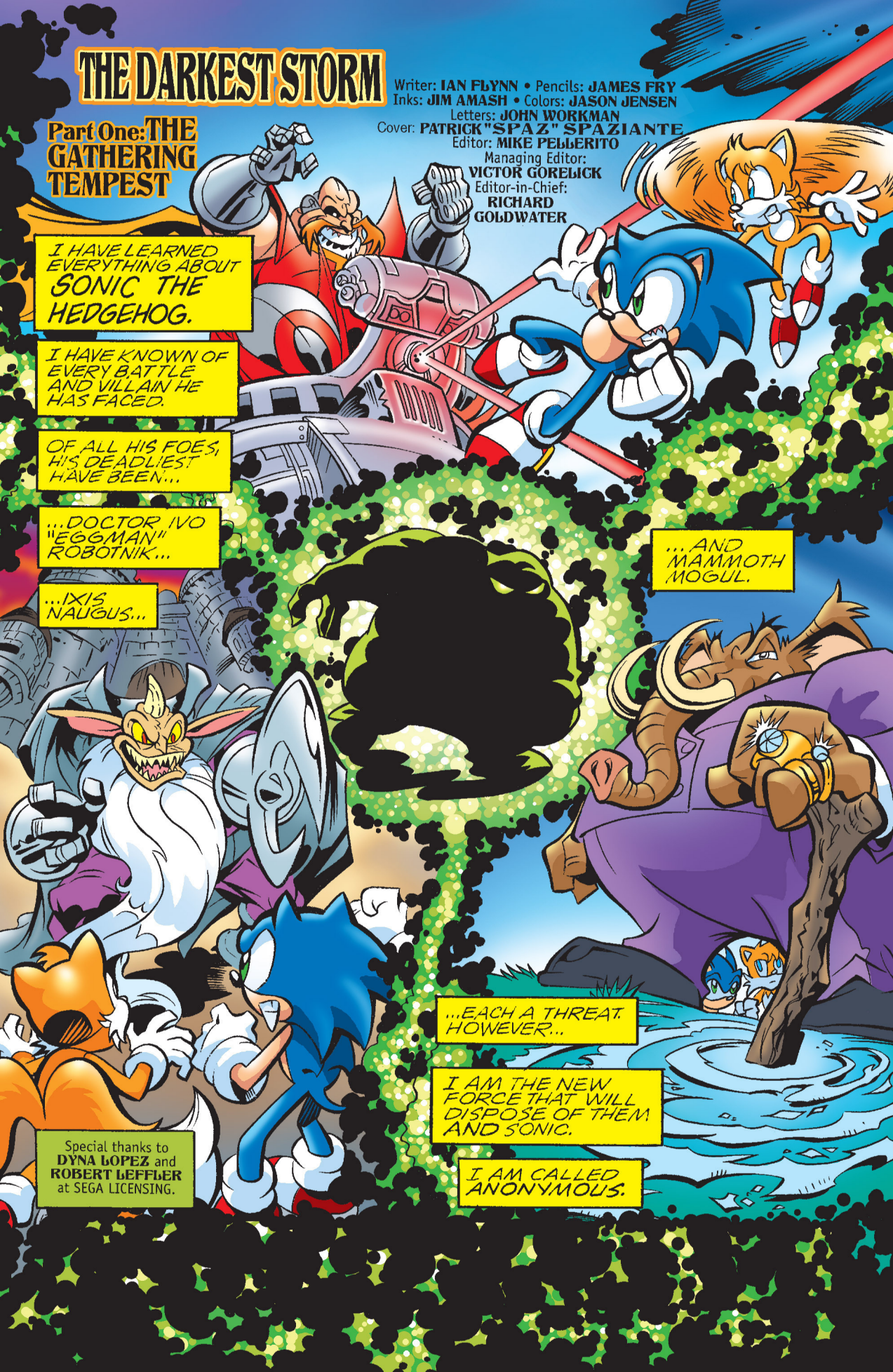
Archie
65TH ANNIVERSARY
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
162 US $2.25
SEGA
DARKEST STORM
PART 1 OF 3
Anniversary 2006
15th
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG


THE DARKEST STORM
Part One: THE GATHERING TEMPEST
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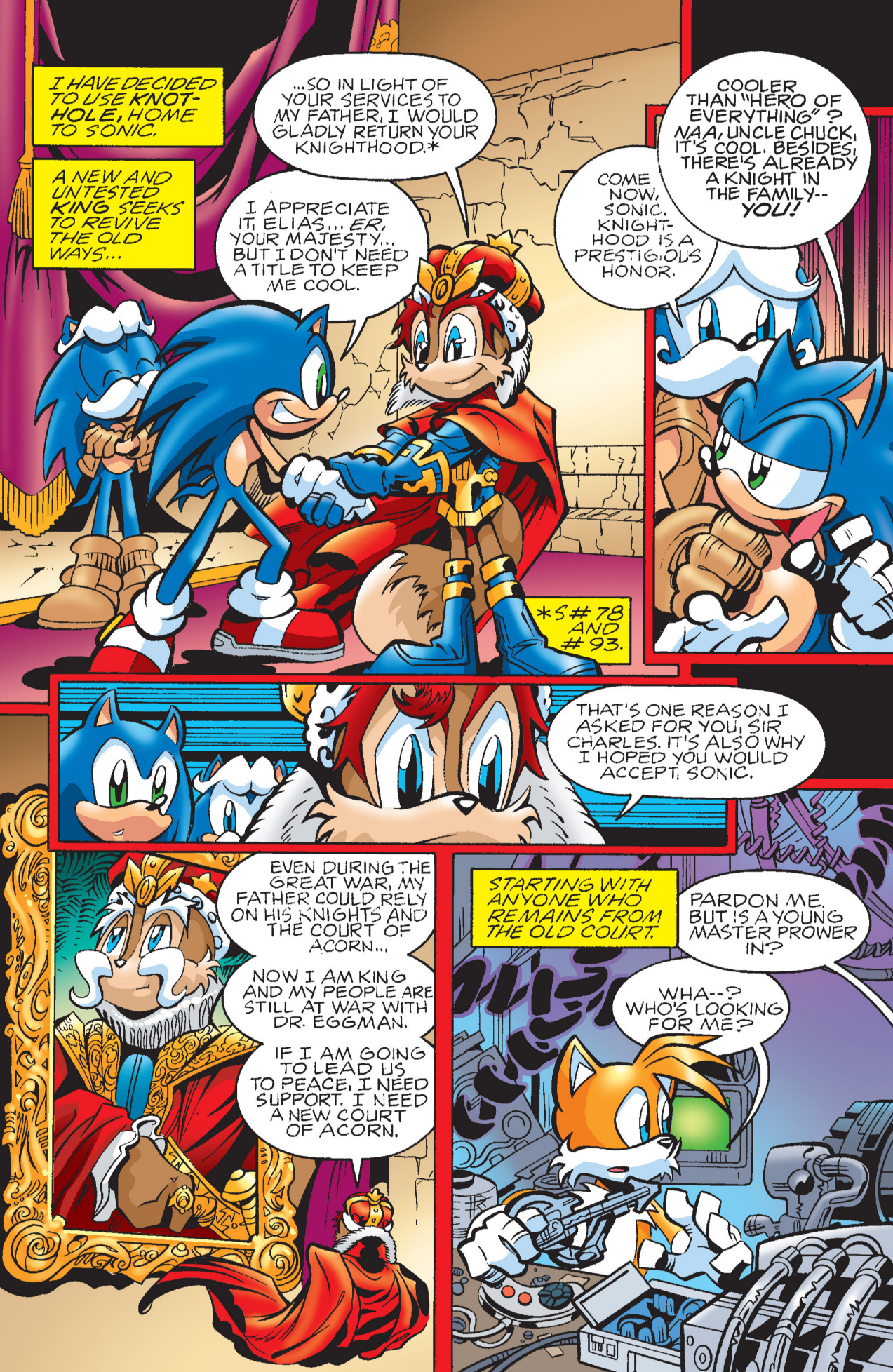
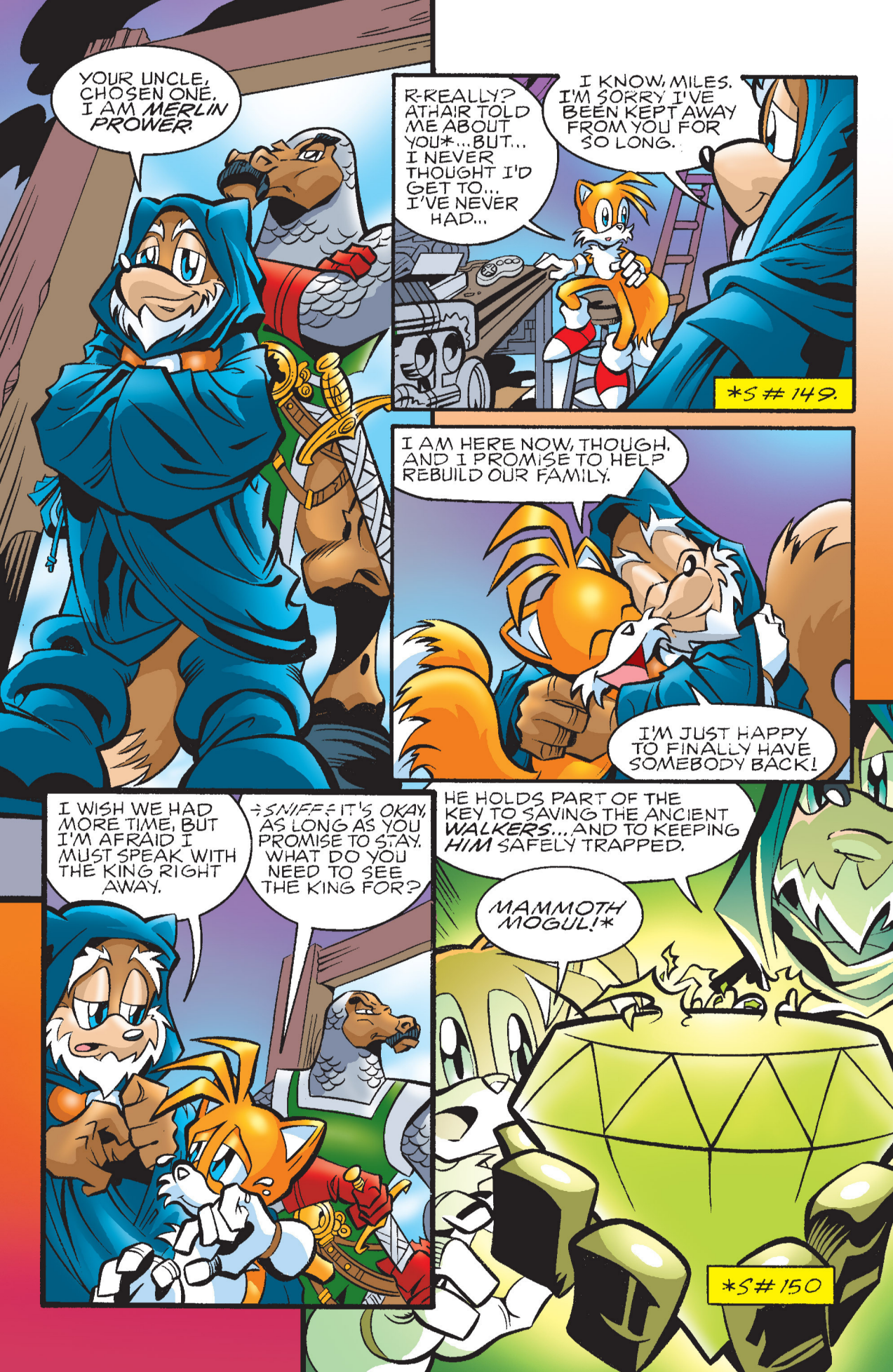
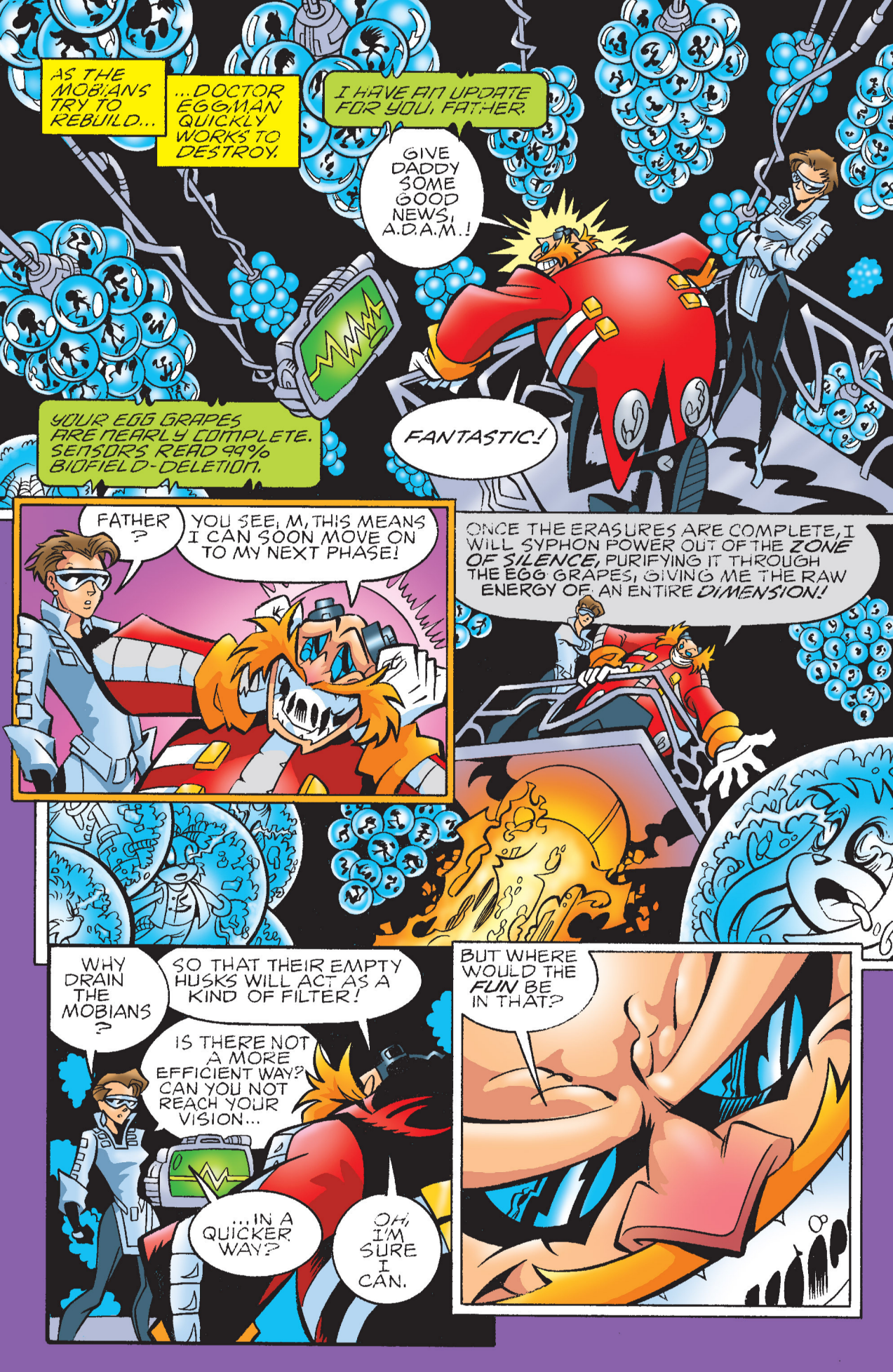
I HAVE LEARNED EVERYTHING ABOUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG.
I HAVE KNOWN OF EVERY BATTLE AND VILLAIN HE HAS FACED.
OF ALL HIS FOES, HIS DEADLIEST HAVE BEEN...
...DOCTOR IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK...
...IXIS NAUGUS...
...AND MAMMOTH MOGUL.
...EACH A THREAT. HOWEVER...
I AM THE NEW FORCE THAT WILL DISPOSE OF THEM AND SONIC.
I AM CALLED ANONYMOUS.
Special thanks to DYNA LOPEZ and ROBERT LEFFLER at SEGA LICENSING.


I HAVE DECIDED TO USE KNOT-HOLE, HOME TO SONIC.
A NEW AND UNTESTED KING SEEKS TO REVIVE THE OLD WAYS...
...SO IN LIGHT OF YOUR SERVICES TO MY FATHER, I WOULD GLADLY RETURN YOUR KNIGHTHOOD.*
I APPRECIATE IT, ELIAS... ER, YOUR MAJESTY... BUT I DON'T NEED A TITLE TO KEEP ME COOL.
COME NOW, SONIC. KNIGHT-HOOD IS A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR.
COOLER THAN "HERO OF EVERYTHING"? NAA, UNCLE CHUCK, IT'S COOL. BESIDES, THERE'S ALREADY A KNIGHT IN THE FAMILY-- YOU!
*S# 78 AND # 93.
THAT'S ONE REASON I ASKED FOR YOU, SIR CHARLES. IT'S ALSO WHY I HOPED YOU WOULD ACCEPT, SONIC.
EVEN DURING THE GREAT WAR, MY FATHER COULD RELY ON HIS KNIGHTS AND THE COURT OF ACORN...
NOW I AM KING AND MY PEOPLE ARE STILL AT WAR WITH DR. EGGMAN.
IF I AM GOING TO LEAD US TO PEACE, I NEED SUPPORT. I NEED A NEW COURT OF ACORN.
STARTING WITH ANYONE WHO REMAINS FROM THE OLD COURT.
PARDON ME. BUT IS A YOUNG MASTER PROWER IN?
WHA--? WHO'S LOOKING FOR ME?


YOUR UNCLE, CHOSEN ONE. I AM MERLIN PROWER.
R-REALLY? ATHAIR TOLD ME ABOUT YOU*...BUT... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO... I'VE NEVER HAD...
I KNOW, MILES. I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN KEPT AWAY FROM YOU FOR SO LONG.
*S # 149.
I AM HERE NOW, THOUGH, AND I PROMISE TO HELP REBUILD OUR FAMILY.
I'M JUST HAPPY TO FINALLY HAVE SOMEBODY BACK!
I WISH WE HAD MORE TIME, BUT I'M AFRAID I MUST SPEAK WITH THE KING RIGHT AWAY.
=SNIFF= IT'S OKAY, AS LONG AS YOU PROMISE TO STAY. WHAT DO YOU NEED TO SEE THE KING FOR?
HE HOLDS PART OF THE KEY TO SAVING THE ANCIENT WALKERS... AND TO KEEPING HIM SAFELY TRAPPED.
MAMMOTH MOGUL!*
*S# 150


AS THE MOBIANS TRY TO REBUILD...
...DOCTOR EGGMAN QUICKLY WORKS TO DESTROY.
I HAVE AN UPDATE FOR YOU, FATHER.
GIVE DADDY SOME GOOD NEWS, A.D.A.M.!
YOUR EGG GRAPES ARE NEARLY COMPLETE. SENSORS READ 99% BIOFIELD-DELETION.
FANTASTIC!
FATHER?
YOU SEE, M, THIS MEANS I CAN SOON MOVE ON TO MY NEXT PHASE!
ONCE THE ERASURES ARE COMPLETE, I WILL SYPHON POWER OUT OF THE ZONE OF SILENCE, PURIFYING IT THROUGH THE EGG GRAPES, GIVING ME THE RAW ENERGY OF AN ENTIRE DIMENSION!
WHY DRAIN THE MOBIANS?
SO THAT THEIR EMPTY HUSKS WILL ACT AS A KIND OF FILTER!
IS THERE NOT A MORE EFFICIENT WAY? CAN YOU NOT REACH YOUR VISION...
...IN A QUICKER WAY?
OH, I'M SURE I CAN.
BUT WHERE WOULD THE FUN BE IN THAT?

VERY GOOD, FATHER.
I THOUGHT SO. A.D.A.M.!
YES, FATHER?
TELL ME YOU HAVE IDENTIFIED THE INDIVIDUAL WHO CALLED HIMSELF "ANONYMOUS." *
I AM AFRAID NOT, FATHER. I AM INDESCRIBABLY SORRY.
THEN RE-DOUBLE YOUR SEARCHING EFFORTS!
YES, FATHER.
*S# 135
I HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE FROM THAT HEDGEHOG WITHOUT SOME UPSTART BOTHERING ME.
ALTHOUGH HE PRESENTED HIMSELF BEARING GIFTS, STEALING MY ROBOTIZATION TECHNIQUE IS UNFORGIVABLE.**
THEN HE SET MY NANITES TO SPREADING*** I WAS SAVING THOSE FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!
**ALSO S#135
***S#152--KINDA
NOW THAT I'M SO CLOSE TO SUCCESS, I DON'T NEED ANY-THING GETTING IN MY WAY.

I HAVE HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIVINE INTER-VENTION.
HOWEVER, THE GOD-LIKE ANCIENT WALKERS ARE EASY ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH.
MERLIN PROWER IS ON HIS WAY.
PLEASE HOLD ON JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
OUR PRESERVATION IS NO LONGER UNDER OUR CONTROL.
SINCE THE COMING OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS, WE HAVE WATCHED LIFE ON MOBIUS FLOURISH. WE HAVE JUDICIOUSLY ACTED TO PRESERVE THE WORLD FROM DARKNESS. FOR OUR DILIGENCE, WE HAVE BEEN STRUCK A MORTAL BLOW. OUR POWER IS FAILING.
WE HAVE SELECTED YOU ... AURORA, YOU ... ATHAIR, AND MERLIN PROWER TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF THE CHAOS FORCE AND TO PROTECT THE WORLD IN OUR STEAD.
OUR GRIP ON LIFE IS SLIPPING. ANY ONE EVENT COULD TAKE US AWAY.
WE FORESEE A GREAT STORM APPROACHING.
YOU MUST BE PREPARED.

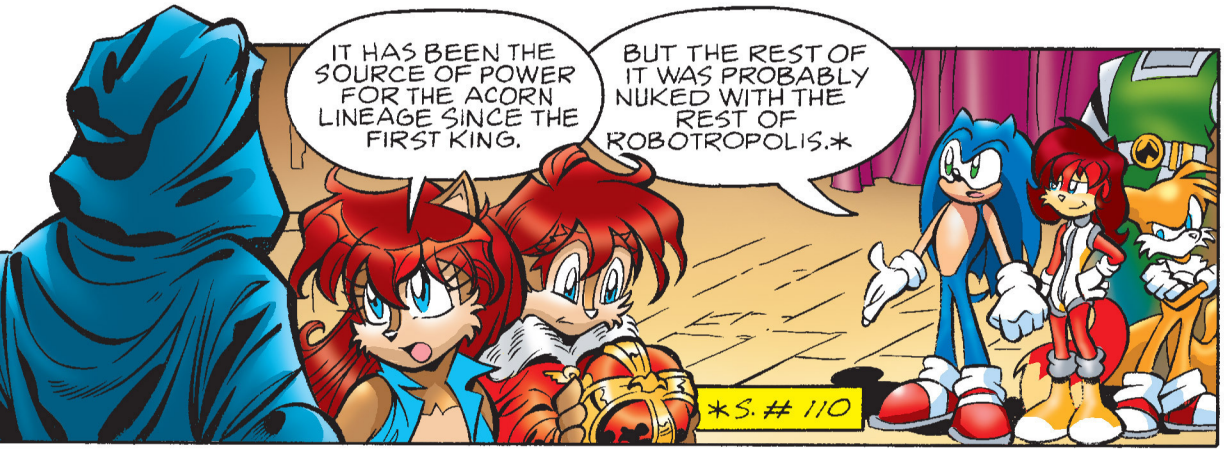
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T INTRODUCE MYSELF!
QUITE ALL RIGHT, TAILS. YOUR UNCLE HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. I AM SIR CONNERY, ONCE A KNIGHT TO KING MAXIMILIAN ACORN.
WHY DID YOU LEAVE?
I WAS SUMMONED BY THE ANCIENT WALKERS. I HAD COMPLETED MY WORK WHEN THEY SENT ME TO GUARD MERLIN.
GUARD HIM? FROM WHO?
FROM THE DESTRUCTIX!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, TAILS! GET THAT CHAOS EMERALD!
R-RIGHT!
THUD
BACK OFF!
DON'T TOY WITH HIM, PREDATOR HAWK. I HEAR REENFORCE-MENTS COMING.

VARLET! YOU SHALL BE SMOTE!
NO--!
DO YOUR JUGULAR A FAVOR AND STAY DOWN!
HOW ARE YOU DOING, FLYING FROG?
CAN'T CAST A SPELL IF HE CAN'T TAKE A BREATH!
HOW'S YOUR DINNER COMING, PREDATOR HAWK?
ALL TOO EASY.
SMACK!
GET THAT SWORD READY, SLEUTH DOGG.
I DON'T THINK IT'LL DO ME MUCH GOOD, SERGEANT SIMIAN!
WHUMP
OOF!

DUDE, NOT MUCH SETS ME OFF, BUT WHEN YOU GO AFTER TAILS, YOU'RE ASKING FOR...
...SERIOUS TROUBLE!
AW, I'M OKAY, SONIC!
SO-- DESTRUCTIX, HUH?
YOU HEARD THAT?
I THINK THEY HEARD YOU IN FURVILLE.
WE CAN'T BE THE FEARSOME FOURSOME ANYMORE. THERE'S SIX OF US.
FAIR ENOUGH. JUST SURPRISED YOU CAN COUNT.
NEW TEAM NAME, SAME OLD LAMENESS.
REGARDLESS, WE MUST GET TO KING ACORN IMMEDIATELY.
GO ON. THE CHAOTIX AND I WILL CLEAN UP THIS MESS.

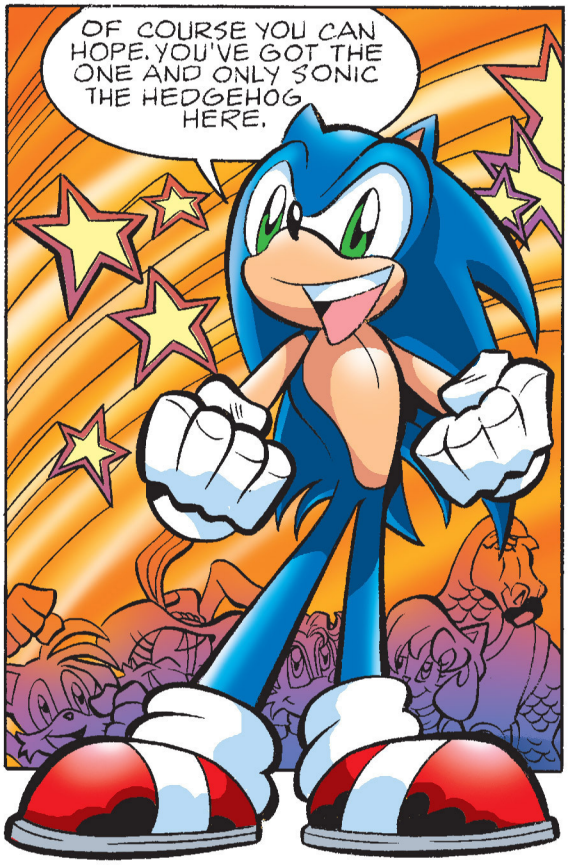
A NEW KING, OLD HEROES, SAME FATE.
EACH UNAWARE THAT THEIR WORK WILL BE FOR NAUGHT.
YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER! MERLIN PROWER! SIR CONNERY! PLEASE RISE AND TELL ME WHAT HAS BROUGHT YOU HOME.
I WAS CALLED FROM YOUR FATHER'S SERVICE BY THE ANCIENT WALKERS. THEY GAVE ME THIS--THE SWORD OF LIGHT--TO PURGE THE WORLD OF DARK MAGIC. WITH THAT DUTY FINISHED, THEY CHARGED ME WITH GUARDING MERLIN PROWER AND HIS PRECIOUS CAPTIVE.
CAPTIVE?
MAMMOTH MOGUL, MY LORD--RECENTLY DEFEATED AND TRAPPED WITHIN HIS OWN CHAOS EMERALD.* HE FELL TO A TRAP SET BY THE ANCIENT WALKERS LONG AGO.
*S # 149
SWISH
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, THE ANCIENT WALKERS FORESAW MOGUL TO BE A THREAT. WHILE THEY REFUSED TO COMBAT DESTINY, THEY DID CURSE THE EMERALD THAT MOGUL WAS FATED TO OBTAIN.
MOGUL USED ITS POWER, AND THE CHAOS EMERALD ALWAYS LED HIM TO A KEY MISJUDGEMENT--UNTIL HE WAS ULTIMATELY TRAPPED WITHIN.

SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
ONCE HE WAS FREE OF THE MASTER EMERALD*, MOGUL USED THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH--
...TO WOUND THE ANCIENT WALKERS. THEY HAVE BEEN DYING EVER SINCE.
*SONIC # 79
IF THEY DIE, THEIR CHARM OVER THE EMERALD WILL BREAK, AND MOGUL WILL BE FREE.
THEN WHAT CAN WE DO?
SINCE YOU'VE COME TO ME, I'M GUESSING I CAN HELP SOMEHOW.
INDEED! YOUR CROWN AND ITS MATE--THE SWORD OF ACORN --ARE ESSENTIAL TO SAVING THE ANCIENT WALKERS.
THE CROWN? WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT AND THE SWORD?
I CAN ANSWER THAT FOR YOU, ELIAS.
SALLY!
I DEALT WITH BOTH PERSONALLY, BROTHER.
THEY WERE MADE FROM A PURE SAMPLE OF THE SOURCE OF ALL-- THE SUBSTANCE THAT IS THE BASE MATERIAL FOR EVERYTHING. THEY CAN CHANNEL AND PRODUCE VAST AMOUNTS OF MAGICAL ENERGY.


IT HAS BEEN THE SOURCE OF POWER FOR THE ACORN LINEAGE SINCE THE FIRST KING.
BUT THE REST OF IT WAS PROBABLY NUKED WITH THE REST OF ROBOTROPOLIS.*
*S. # 110

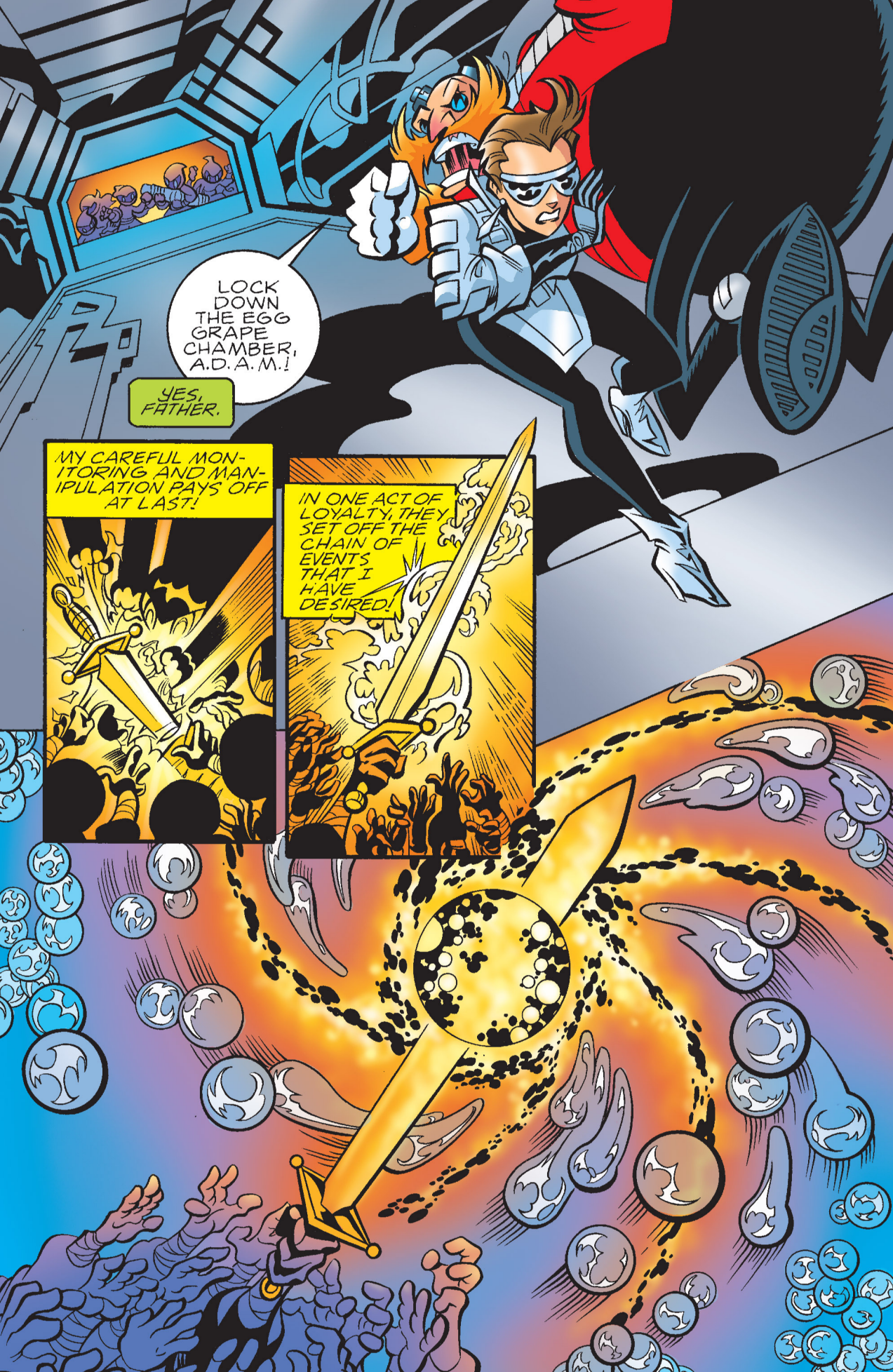
I GAVE THE SWORD OF ACORNS TO THE ORPHANS OF UMA ARACHNIS WHEN IT SEEMED TO BE GROWING TOO... COMMANDING.**
I WAS AFRAID THEY WOULD BE SEPARATED. WE MUST FIND THE SWORD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
**SONIC # 111

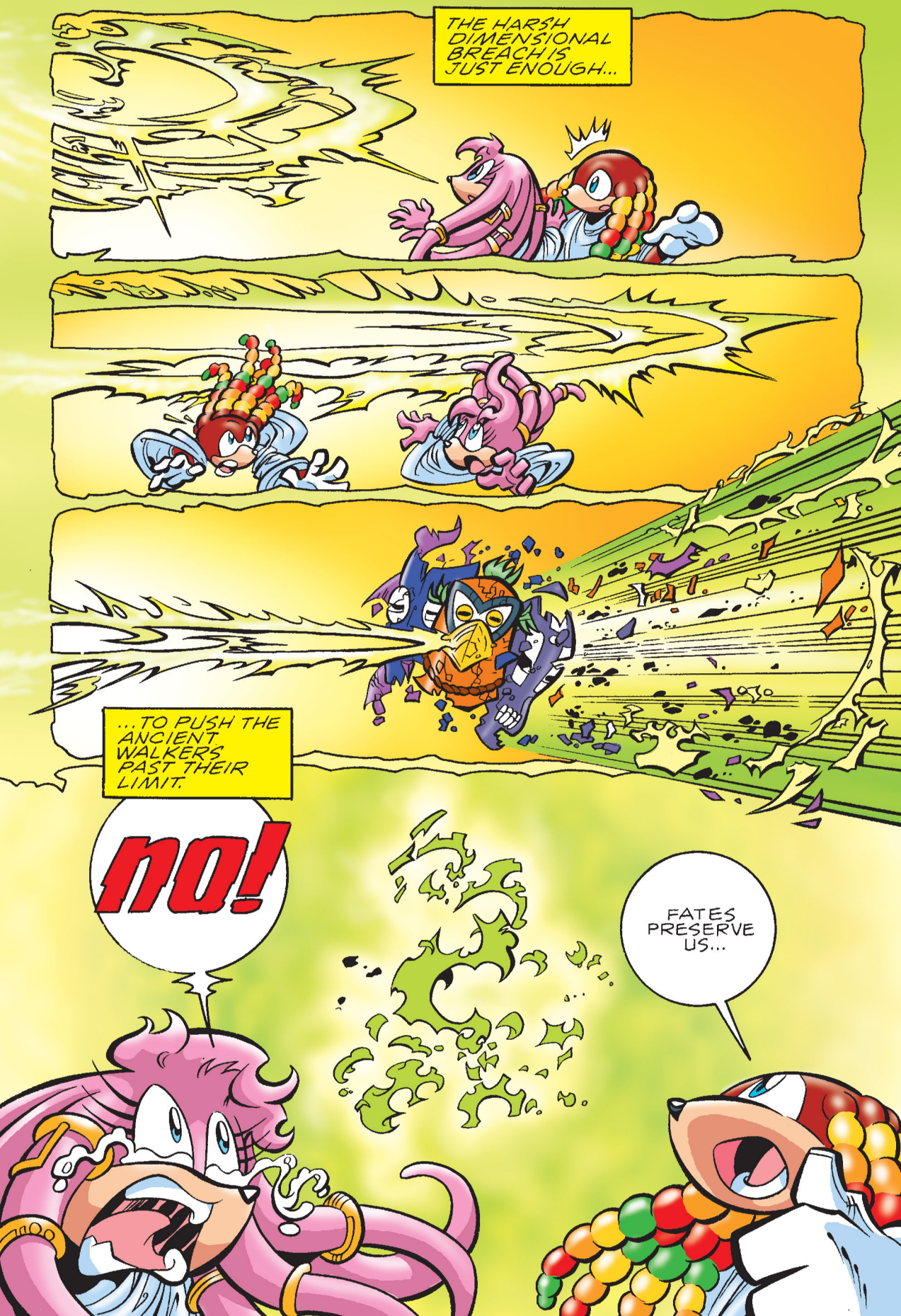
YOU WON'T START YOUR SEARCH EMPTY-HANDED. I CAN GIVE THE CROWN OF ACORNS TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE FROM A FUTURE THREAT.
THANK YOU, KING ELIAS. THAT MEANS WE CAN STILL HOPE.


OF COURSE YOU CAN HOPE. YOU'VE GOT THE ONE AND ONLY SONIC THE HEDGEHOG HERE.

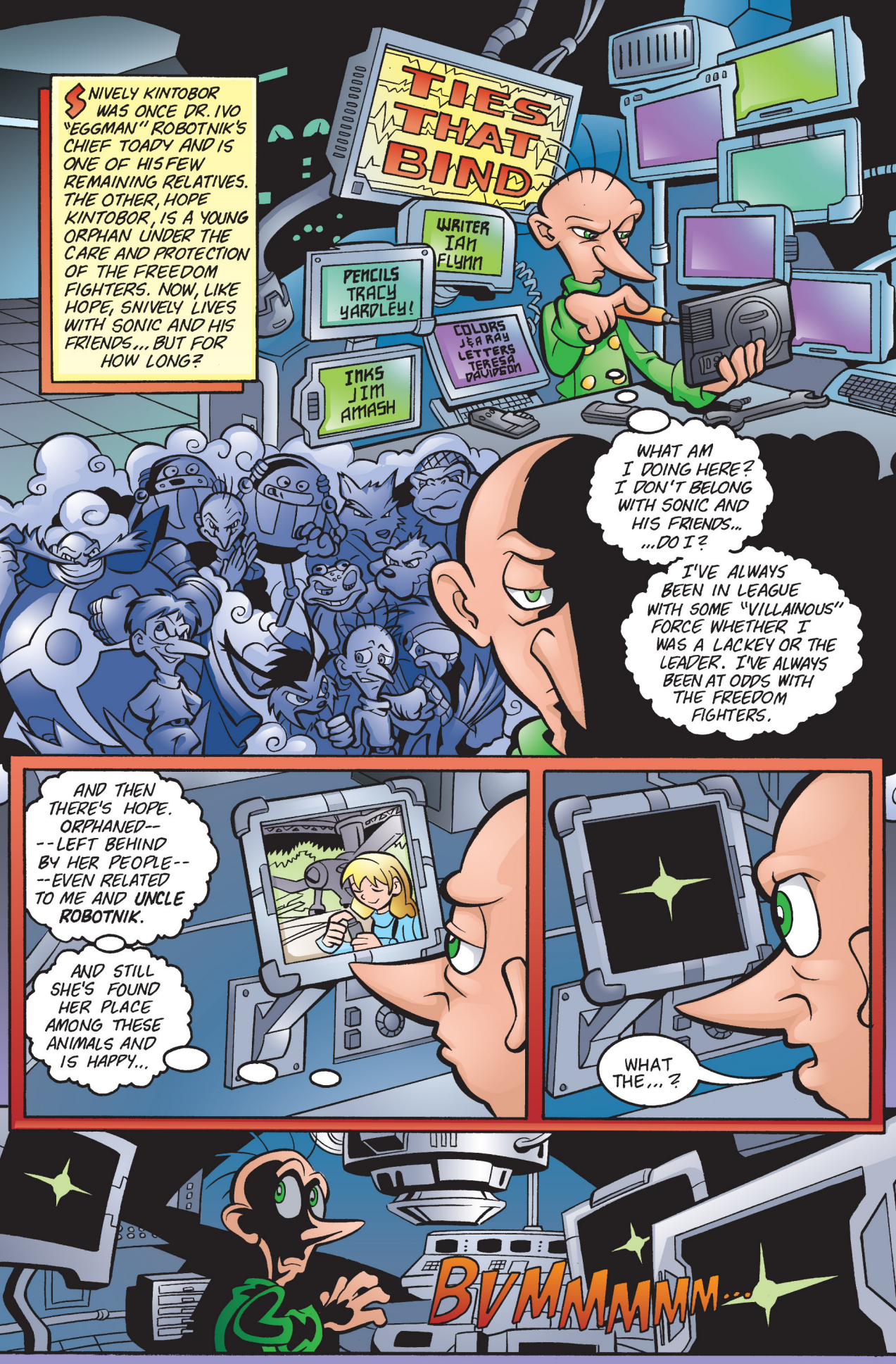
I HOPE THOSE CRAZY KIDS HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING STUPID WITH THE SWORD.

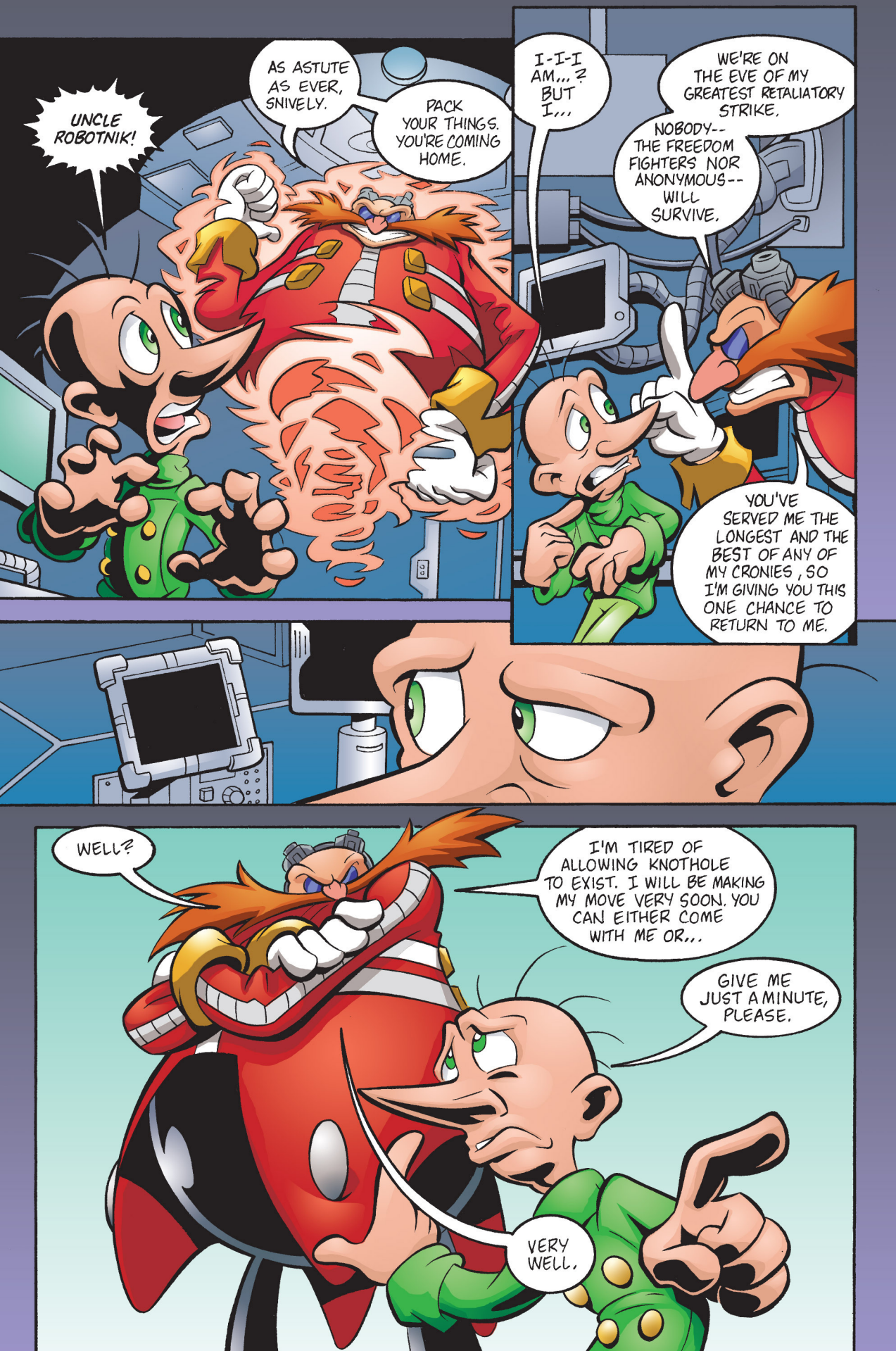
I TELL YA, KIDS, I COULD LOOK AT THESE HOPELESS EXPRESSIONS ALL DAY.
AH, HOW BITTER-SWEET! ONE TORTURE ENDS WHERE ANOTHER ONE BEGI--
BIOFIELD-DELETION COMPLETE, FATHER.
SMASH
EGAD!
AT LAST-- I STRIKE!
A.D.A.M.! WHY ARE THE EGG GRAPES POWERING UP?!
I DO NOT KNOW, FATHER! THE EGG GRAPES ARE BEHAVING OUTSIDE OF THEIR PROGRAMMED PARAMETERS.
I CANNOT STOP THE PROCESS.
M! STOP PLAYING AROUND AND GET DADDY TO SAFETY!
YES, FATHER!
AHH! CAREFUL, MECHA!
ZKA-T!


LOCK DOWN THE EGG GRAPE CHAMBER, A.D.A.M.!
YES, FATHER.
MY CAREFUL MONITORING AND MANIPULATION PAYS OFF AT LAST!
IN ONE ACT OF LOYALTY, THEY SET OFF THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT I HAVE DESIRED!

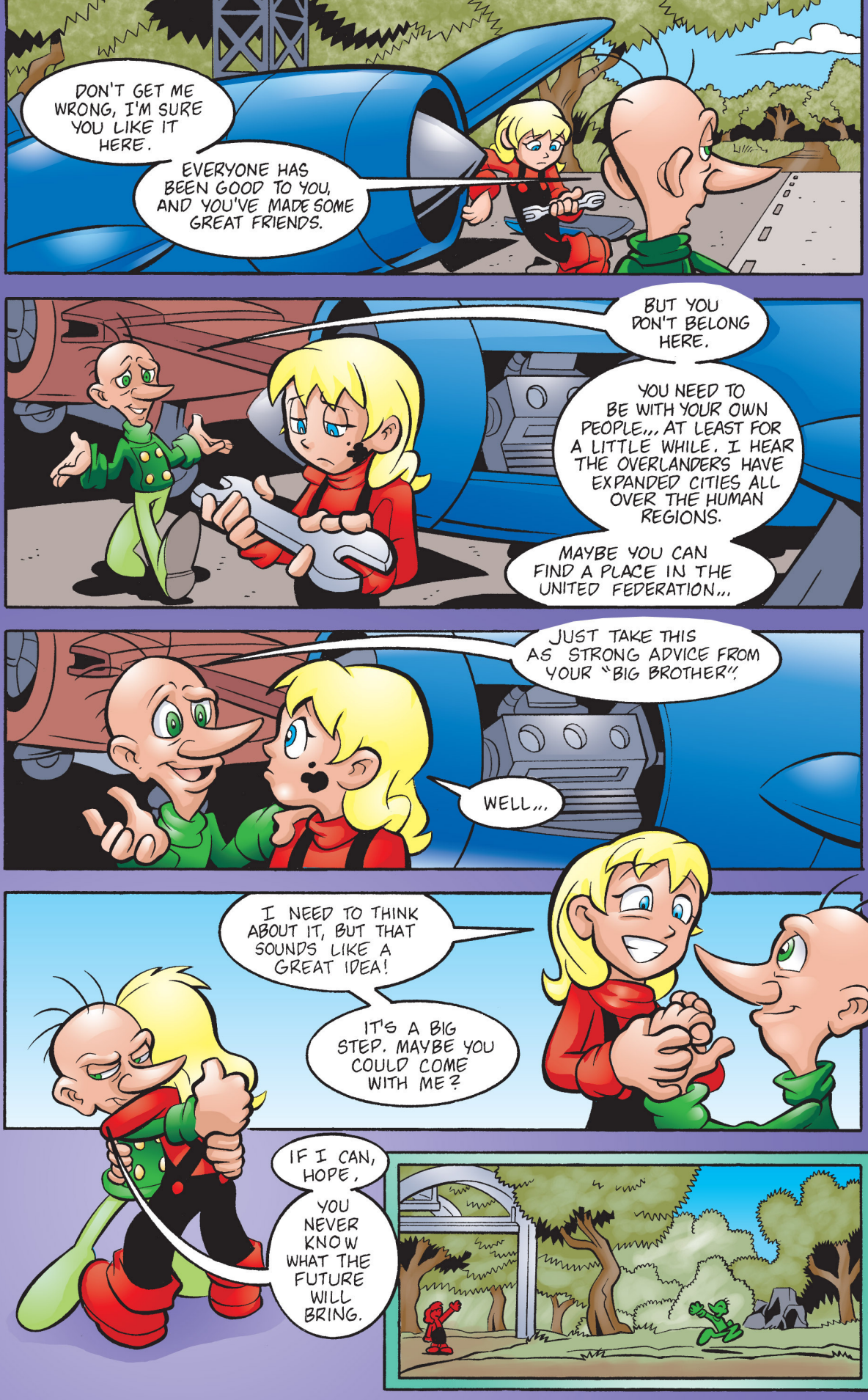

THE HARSH DIMENSIONAL BREACH IS JUST ENOUGH...
...TO PUSH THE ANCIENT WALKERS PAST THEIR LIMIT.
no!
FATES PRESERVE US...

THANK YOU ALL. WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND THIS PROMISING BEGINNING, WE MAY NOW--
AUGH!
UNCLE MERLIN!
A VALIANT ATTEMPT, SAGELY PROWER...
...BUT YOUR EFFORTS WERE TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.
PHASE ONE-- COMPLETE.
TO BE CONTINUED

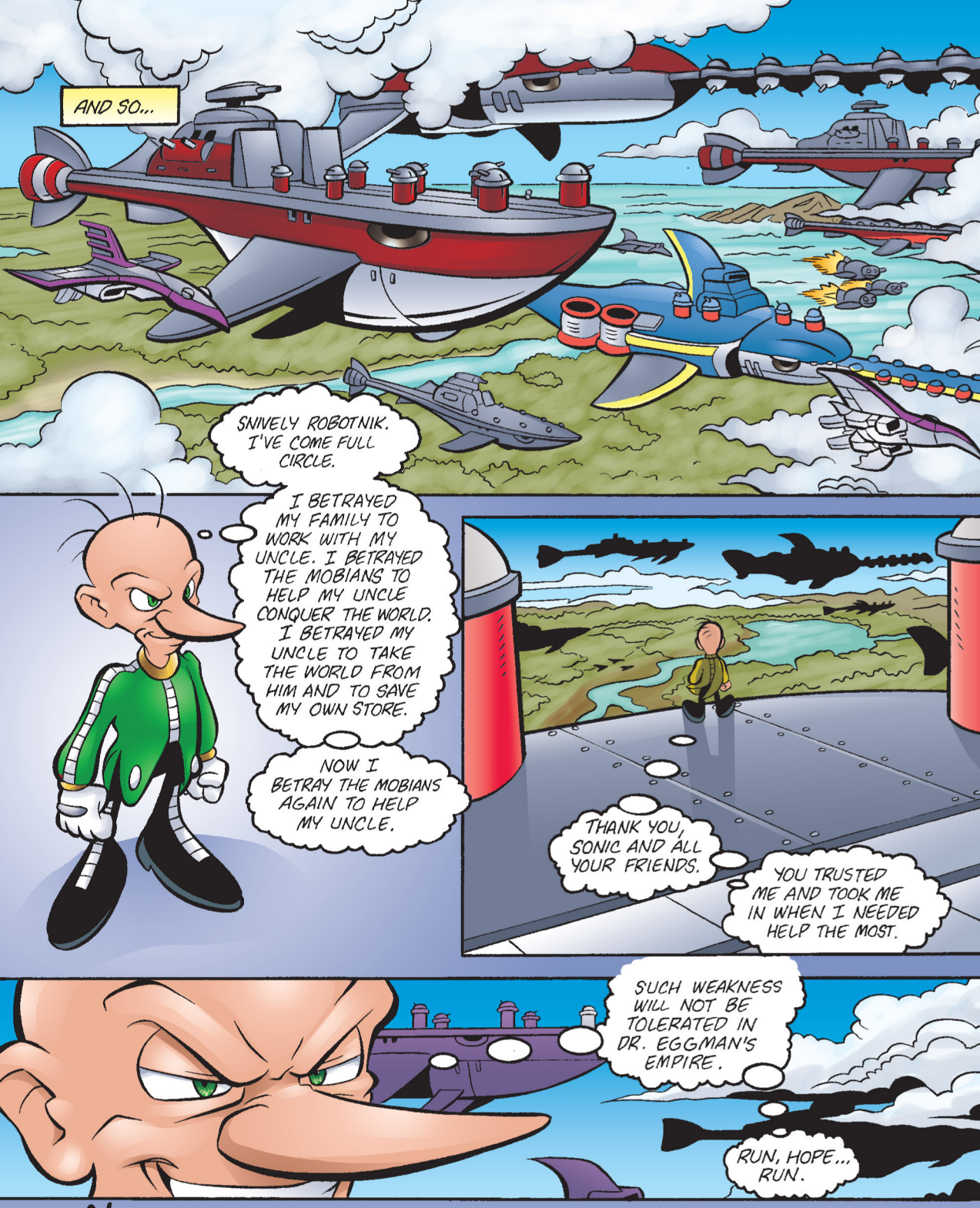

TIES THAT BIND
WRITER IAN FLYNN
PENCILS TRACY YARDLEY!
COLORS J&A RAY LETTERS TERESA DAVIDSON
INKS JIM AMASH
SNIVELY KINTOBOR WAS ONCE DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK'S CHIEF TOADY AND IS ONE OF HIS FEW REMAINING RELATIVES. THE OTHER, HOPE KINTOBOR, IS A YOUNG ORPHAN UNDER THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. NOW, LIKE HOPE, SNIVELY LIVES WITH SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS... BUT FOR HOW LONG?
WHAT AM I DOING HERE? I DON'T BELONG WITH SONIC AND HIS FRIENDS... ...DO I?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN LEAGUE WITH SOME "VILLAINOUS" FORCE WHETHER I WAS A LACKEY OR THE LEADER. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AT ODDS WITH THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
AND THEN THERE'S HOPE. ORPHANED-- --LEFT BEHIND BY HER PEOPLE-- --EVEN RELATED TO ME AND UNCLE ROBOTNIK.
AND STILL SHE'S FOUND HER PLACE AMONG THESE ANIMALS AND IS HAPPY...
WHAT THE...?
BVMMMMMM...


UNCLE ROBOTNIK!
AS ASTUTE AS EVER, SNIVELY.
PACK YOUR THINGS. YOU'RE COMING HOME.
I-I-I AM,,,? BUT I,,,
WE'RE ON THE EVE OF MY GREATEST RETALIATORY STRIKE.
NOBODY-- THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS NOR ANONYMOUS-- WILL SURVIVE.
YOU'VE SERVED ME THE LONGEST AND THE BEST OF ANY OF MY CRONIES, SO I'M GIVING YOU THIS ONE CHANCE TO RETURN TO ME.
WELL?
I'M TIRED OF ALLOWING KNOTHOLE TO EXIST. I WILL BE MAKING MY MOVE VERY SOON. YOU CAN EITHER COME WITH ME OR...
GIVE ME JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE.
VERY WELL.

HOPE!!!
SNIVELY?
ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST... WINDED...
LISTEN-- SINCE YOU'RE FAMILY...
...I THOUGHT...
...I DON'T KNOW IF...
...BUT YOU SEE...
IT COULD TAKE YOU FAR AWAY FROM HERE...
WHAT?
YOU'RE BUILDING YOUR OWN PLANE, huh?
YEP! SIR CHARLES SAID I WAS GOING TO ACE MY PROJECT FOR THE YEAR FOR SURE!


DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M SURE YOU LIKE IT HERE.
EVERYONE HAS BEEN GOOD TO YOU, AND YOU'VE MADE SOME GREAT FRIENDS.
BUT YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.
YOU NEED TO BE WITH YOUR OWN PEOPLE... AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I HEAR THE OVERLANDERS HAVE EXPANDED CITIES ALL OVER THE HUMAN REGIONS.
MAYBE YOU CAN FIND A PLACE IN THE UNITED FEDERATION...
JUST TAKE THIS AS STRONG ADVICE FROM YOUR "BIG BROTHER".
WELL...
I NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT, BUT THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!
IT'S A BIG STEP. MAYBE YOU COULD COME WITH ME?
IF I CAN, HOPE,
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.

THAT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH. HAVE YOU DECIDED?
A WISE MOVE.
STILL, I HAVE TO ASK. HOW CAN YOU TRUST ME? WE'VE TRIED TO DO EACH OTHER IN BEFORE.
I HAVE, UNCLE. LET'S GO.
YOU WANT TO RULE THE WORLD TOO BADLY TO UNDERMINE ME YET. AND I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU THE NEXT TIME YOU TRY.
BEEP!
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.
VVVVVVVVVVVVVVVTT


AND SO...
SNIVELY ROBOTNIK. I'VE COME FULL CIRCLE.
I BETRAYED MY FAMILY TO WORK WITH MY UNCLE. I BETRAYED THE MOBIANS TO HELP MY UNCLE CONQUER THE WORLD. I BETRAYED MY UNCLE TO TAKE THE WORLD FROM HIM AND TO SAVE MY OWN STORE.
NOW I BETRAY THE MOBIANS AGAIN TO HELP MY UNCLE.
THANK YOU, SONIC AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS.
YOU TRUSTED ME AND TOOK ME IN WHEN I NEEDED HELP THE MOST.
SUCH WEAKNESS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN DR. EGGMAN'S EMPIRE.
RUN, HOPE... RUN.

NEXT ISSUE THINGS REALLY HEAT UP FOR SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! DON'T MISS SONIC # 163 ON SALE JUNE

AND, JOIN SONIC'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY MAYHEM IN SONIC X #10, ON SALE JUNE

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